From: plawson@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:14pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement -- Oppose

I oppose the Microsoft Settlement.

There are many, many problems, but two key ones are:

(1) The distribution of Windows software to poor schools only serves to deepen Microsoft's monopoly while giving them a P.R. opportunity. Instead I support the RedHat proposal in which Microsoft supplies hardware and RedHat supplies the operating system software. This would be an appropriate remedy.

(2) Provisions to partially open the Windows code base are worded to exclude non-commercial software, specifically Microsoft's chief competition, Linux, from access to the code. I believe Microsoft is threatened by the GPL implementation of SMP, Samba. They plan to change the protocol enough to break Samba (thereby forcing servers to use Windows) without having to reveal their code changes to free software developers. If Windows code is to be open it should be open to all.

Thank you for your attention.

Peter Lawson
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